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Cass Family Clinic receives grant for Narcan vending machines

COMMUNITY REPORT

CASS COUNTY — Cass Family Clinic, an independent Federally Qualified Health Center serving Southwest Michigan, has installed Naloxone/Narcan vending machines at its Cass and Niles locations, providing access to free opioid overdose reversal kits. A third machine will be installed at Cass Family Clinic's Dowagiac facility when construction is complete later this summer.

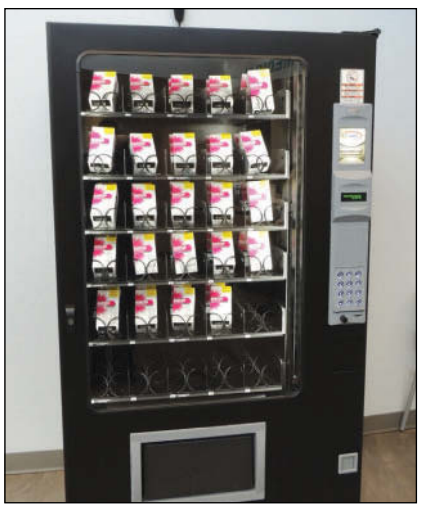
Opioid overdose is a leading cause of accidental deaths and has led to a decrease in life expectancy nationwide. The Naloxone/Narcan provided at Cass Family Clinic's facilities is a nasal spray drug that restores breathing by blocking opioids' effects on the brain. It has no potential for abuse.

The new vending machines at Cass Family Clinic were made available through a $13,000 grant from the Cass County Opioid Settlement fund.

"It's proven that Narcan saves lives and reverses the effects of an opioid overdose," said Cass Family Clinic Pharmacy Director Kevin Klipowicz. "We've already had to re-stock the Narcan vending machine at our Niles location since being installed in April – so we know there is a definite need for safe and effective overdose reversal medication in Southwest Michigan. With the support of Cass County Opioid Settlement funds, Cass Family Clinic is proud to equip residents in the communities we serve with this life-saving tool and potentially save more lives."

Opioid-related deaths in Michigan increased by more than 300percent starting in 2013, according to government officials. Opioid-related deaths accounted for over 80 percent of all drug-related deaths

See NARCAN, Page A8



SUBMITTED
LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Cass Family Clinic has installed Naloxone/Narcan vending machines in the foyer at its Cass and Niles locations, providing access to free opioid overdose reversal kits. They are accessible during clinic hours. A third machine will be installed at Cass Family Clinic's Dowagiac facility when construction is complete later this summer.

VHT STUDIO

Political commentator David Axelrod lists Buchanan Township home

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN TOWNSHIP — A Buchanan Township home owned by a notable political commentator has hit the market.

David Axelrod, an American political strategist and commentator and the former chief strategist and senior advisor to President Barack Obama, has listed his 53-acre Hills Road estate for $2.3 million.

The property, listed with @Properties in New Buffalo, features 4,200 square feet of space with four bedrooms and 4.5 baths. Originally built in 1857 as a barn, the home is surrounded by woods, rolling hills and a pond.

Axelrod, a Senior Political Commentator on CNN, is the founding director of the University of Chicago's non-partisan Institute of Politics and now serves as a senior fellow at the IOP.

Berrien County man gets prison time for impregnating young girl

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — A 61-year-old man has been sentenced to prison for sexually molesting a young girl and getting her pregnant.

Wright

Willie Wright, Jr., 61, now of Kalamazoo, pleaded guilty to first-degree criminal sexual conduct and was sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison Monday in Berrien County Trial Court. He has credit for 94 days served and must pay $258 in fines and costs. He will have lifetime electronic monitoring if he's released and must register as a sex offender.

The incident occurred in late 2014 at a location in Eau Claire.

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Myrene Koch argued successfully to have the sentencing guidelines raised because of Wright's conduct

See PRISON, Page A8

REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES

RAP grants bring millions to Buchanan, Cassopolis

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — More than $2 million in revitalization and placemaking grants are heading to southwest Michigan as part of a statewide $25 million investment announced by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced Wednesday Buchanan will receive $1 million and Cassopolis $1.2 million to make significant improvements to their communities.

The RAP program is a MEDC program that supports community revitalization needs in Michigan communities by investing in projects that promote population and tax revenue growth.

Cassopolis will use its grant for a downtown facade improvement program as well as a new trail that will connect downtown to the SMART Park. The plan is to eventually connect the SMART park to Dr. TK Lawless County Park.

Buchanan will use its grant to support the Buchanan Downtown Infrastructure and Placemaking Initiative. The new streetscapes and Adaptive Street portions of the project total over 50,000 sq. ft. of enhanced sense of place within the community. The area will be transformed with widened sidewalks, new amenities, community branding and a new "living streets" concept that will be a centerpiece of the project and will focus on community engagement and flexibility in the use of public space.

"The Buchanan Downtown Infrastructure and Placemaking Initiative is the culmination of several years of community engagement focused on investing in and preserving our central business district," said Buchanan Mayor Mark Weedon. "The new streetscape and public amenities will create space for community engagement with functional improvements that beautify the space and provide opportunities for flexibility of community and business use."

This latest round of RAP funding is being awarded to 27 applications and will support approximately 64 projects in 48 communities throughout the state, leveraging over $120 million in total investment in public spaces. The MEDC's Place, Programs and Services team received 81 applications with a total funding request of $83,125,309, reflecting the continued interest and demand for resources that support the growth of vibrant, diverse, and resilient communities across the state.

"Today's grants underscore our commitment to the state's

See GRANTS, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

OBITUARIES

Barry Nichols
Joseph Van den Driessche
Bridget Marie Kessler
Denise Sayer
Jeffery Wright
Carla Jean Lundeberg Campbell
Fannie Clarentine Mitchell
Marybeth York
Stephen Thomas Wright

A7

Cassopolis wins Scott Novak Memorial Cup

B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call or text Frankly at 219-455-2349 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

Reopening Alcatraz is a great idea. I think Trump will love it there.

Warren Buffett appears to be a little smarter when it comes to financial affairs than King Trump. I think his statement on anti-tariff is correct.

I am not a Catholic, but as a Christian and a human being, I am utterly appalled at Trump's X post of him dressed as the Pope. For heaven's sake, he is the President of the United States of America. He is not in a fraternity.

Let's not confuse "disruption" with "chaos." There is a big difference between shaking things up and busting down the pillars of our constitutional republic.

The stock market is on a tear. If you aren't investing now, you are missing the boat. Trump knows this and is providing Americans with a great opportunity.

Sorry, but the US has been taken advantage of for many years and this needs to stop.

Beware of crypto! When drug dealers, liars and cheaters love it, it's probably not the best place to invest in your future.

Consider adopting an adult dog or cat. You won't be disappointed. You will enjoy the companionship and most are well mannered. Many shelters will allow you to adopt for a donation to help cover food and shots.

If our President would focus on high healthcare costs rather than the Gulf of America, Mt. McKinley, Victory Day and his birthday military parade, maybe he could do something meaningful.

The Dowagiac Post-Office employees should not be swearing in a public place. I am appalled at the language I recently heard inside that building.

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	40% Chance Rain Showers	30% Chance Rain Showers	30% Chance of Rain
75° 46°	78° 54°	83° 61°	79° 63°	78° 65°	86° 65°

DEMONSTRATORS RALLY

FOR REPUBLICAN LEADERS IN DOWNTOWN NILES

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Demonstrators and counter protestors alike gathered in front of Congressman Tim Walberg's Niles office Monday afternoon to make their voices heard.

GOP supporters gathered for a "Stand up for Trump" rally to voice support for President Donald Trump, Walberg, Rep. Brad Paquette and Senator Jonathan Lindsey.

"I feel like the movements in this country lately have been divisive and hateful and trying to get people to not like each other anymore and not work together anymore," said GOP supporter Brenda Beadenkopf. "We need to encourage people to work together and do the right thing. We love what Donald Trump is doing and we know that the country is behind us."

Across the street, a counter-protest took place organized by the Coalition 4 Democracy to voice concerns regarding the direction the country is heading under the Donald Trump administration.

"I am encouraged by the increase and the people standing up but it's a very sad thing that we have to be out here in the first place," said counter protestor Carol Drake. "It's discouraging to think that we've come to this point. I hope that [GOP supporters] are not following just conservative resources. I hope that they're also following factual coverage of what type of policies the administration is actually forcing over the American people and the rights that we are losing."

GOP supporters hope people will give the current administration a chance.

"They are against Trump," Beadenkopf said. "They don't have anything good to say, all they want to do is to hate Trump and to me that is not the basis for a country to be... I encourage people to actually find out what Donald Trump is doing because the press will not tell you any of the good things he's doing and the things that they do talk about, they twist and try to make it look bad. He's doing a lot of good things for our country."

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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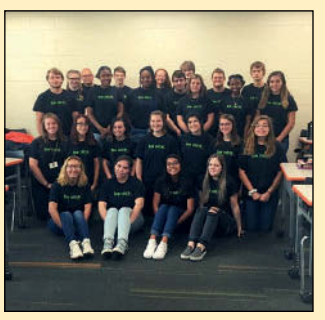

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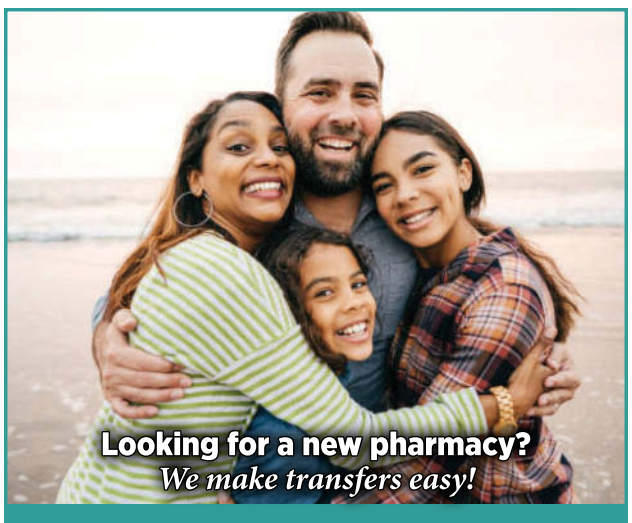

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Dowagiac resident to run for Michigan's 37th State House District

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Gerik Maverick, a long-time nonprofit and community leader, has announced his campaign for State Representative in Michigan's 37th House District.

According to a news release, the Dowagiac resident is entering the race to protect workers, invest locally, and ensure every child has a fair shot at success.

"I know what it's like to struggle, to live paycheck to paycheck. Growing up I remember relying on programs like free school lunch as my parent's small business fell apart during the 2008 financial crisis." said Maverick. "Michigan's 37th House District deserves a representative who takes their job seriously, a representative who focuses less on posting on social media and pontificating on the house floor, and more on how they can deliver for the people of Southwest Michigan. We need leaders, not dividers. We need fighters, not keyboard warriors."

Maverick, formerly a credentialed minister, has spent the last several years advocating for LGBTQ+ rights, working in the community to build sustainable support networks, and fighting for policies that lift people up.

"During my time in ministry I saw the value of good leadership. Leaders who led with wisdom, grace, and love. This is the kind of leadership I want to bring to Lansing."

Maverick's campaign plans to focus on issues such as:

Fighting for Workers and Unions

•Strengthening Education for All

•Keeping Local Money Local

•Protecting Our Towns, Farms, and People

•Defending Our Rights

Over the coming months, Maverick will be traveling across the 37th district, meeting with neighbors and listening to the issues that matter most to them. Maverick will host regular "coffee hours" open for community members to stop by, support a local business, and speak with the candidate. The first three dates and locations have been announced with more to come in the following weeks.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Maverick

•Saturday, May 10 - Baker's Rhapsody from noon to 2 p.m. in Dowagiac

•Saturday, May 17 - Niles Brewing Company from noon to 2 p.m. in Niles

•May 24th - Commune+Market from noon to 2 p.m. in Three Oaks

To learn more, visit maverickformichigan.com.

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49112-0623
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Area residents sentenced in Cass County Court

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — Three area residents were sentenced Friday in Cass County Circuit Court at the Cass County Law & Courts Building.

Benjamin David Kamp, 43, of Elkhart, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine/ecstasy and was sentenced to three years probation, 365 days in jail with credit for four days served and $2,628 in fines and costs.

Kamp

The incident occurred Sept. 30, 2024 in Newberg Township near Jones. Kamp fled from police on his motorcycle on M-60, then M-140 before turning onto Born Street at speeds of 100 miles per hour or more. Police found meth in his pocket when he was stopped.

Defense attorney Robert Drake said Kamp has a number of health problems and is undergoing medical tests. He asked Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman not to impose the jail term.

For his part, Kamp said his health has gotten worse and that he's quit smoking.

Judge Herman noted that this was Kamp's 14th felony conviction and that he also has had 13 misdemeanor convictions. "You and I are no strangers," he told Kamp. "You ran from police and you've done this before. You always throw caution to the wind and with your health and everything else, it has now come back to haunt you."

He said that while the advisory guidelines call for a prison term, he agreed with the prosecutor and the defense attorney to give Kamp probation and jail given his health issues. "Probation is important to keep you on tract with your medical appointments," he said. "But if you continue to violate, they do have hospitals in prison."

"Why are you still using meth and acting the fool?" the judge asked. "Is that how little concern you have for your two year old child and your older children? Do you ever intend to grow up? It's time for you to grow up. I told you before that fleeing from police could cause a prison sentence, you put yourself, the police and the public in danger."

"I will go ahead and put the ball in your court," he said. "You have one last opportunity to avoid prison. It's time to grow up. The next time police tell you to stop, stop. If you ever flee police again, you will go to prison. It's time to stop putting yourself and others in danger."

Jeremy Roberts, 43, of Bristol, pleaded guilty to

See COURT, Page A7

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Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Trump using fear to promote authoritarian agenda

Editor,

Donald Trump is weaponizing the U.S. government against anyone he believes might oppose his authoritarian ambitions.

He enlisted the Justice Department, the FBI, and the IRS to target and punish those who previously opposed him - Hillary Clinton, Liz Cheney, Adam Kinsinger, General Mark Milley, and many others.

He ordered the Justice Department to attack judges who he perceives oppose him including Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Judges Amy Jackson, Jon Tigar, and Hannah Dugan.

Trump threatened to terminate government contracts for law firms that investigated him in the past and has threatened to bar their lawyers from all federal buildings and any interactions with federal employees.

He threatened funding cuts to private and public universities - including Harvard, Cornell, Columbia, Michigan, and Northwestern - if they don't accept his demands that include doing away with diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, which schools use to create an inclusive environment on campus as well as for our society in general.

Republicans who hold elected offices in state and federal legislatures have been almost entirely compliant with Trump's authoritarian actions.

Recently, the U.S. House passed legislation called the SAVE act, requiring picture ID to prove citizenship when voting making it much more difficult for millions of Americans. During questioning about similar legislation in Michigan, Congressman Tim Walberg was asked about individuals unable to afford a $200 passport to prove their citizenship in order to vote. Walberg replied: "Well, then they shouldn't be voting". Two conservative think tanks found only 77 non-citizens voting in U.S. federal elections from 1999-2023.

Stay informed. Call your US Congressperson and Senators and attend their town halls. Question why our laws are disregarded. Ask them to stop the spreading of lies about illegal voting. Ask them to stop Trump from weaponizing government agencies and using fear tactics.

Ken Peterson
MAJ U.S. Army (Ret.)
Buchanan

NEWS

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

CFO Michelle Kite.

SMC recognizes 33 employees

Courtesy of SMC

DOWAGIAC — Thirty-three individuals were recognized at Southwestern Michigan College's annual Employee Retirement and Recognition Breakfast May 2 in Mathews Conference Center East, including five retirees from academics.

Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Keith Howell retires May 15. Hired in August 1996 as a mathematics instructor, he served as Math/Science Chair from 2011-18, when he became dean for seven years.

Ria Thomas, retiring Aug. 1, was initially hired in August 1995 as an adjunct math instructor. She also worked as a tutor and coordinated the Teaching and Learning Center in 2005, becoming TLC director in 2006. Later that year Thomas transitioned to the math faculty for 19 years, succeeding Howell as chair in 2018.

Catherine Chandler retired in January from the School of Nursing and Health Services faculty. Hired in January 2018 as an adjunct, she became full-time in August 2020.

Julie Zabriskie was hired in September 2013 to teach health information technology, which the Air Force veteran did for 12 years.

Shelley Todd was hired in May 2001 as a special-needs adviser and worked part-time in the TLC from 2002-11 while also an adjunct instructor. Todd in 2011 transitioned to full-time nursing faculty for 14 years.

President Dr. Joseph Odenwald bid an official farewell by video as he prepares to take over leadership of Alma College.

"Laura, Joseph and I are grateful to have been part of the SMC family for the last 7 ½ years, five as president. This is a college and a community that welcomed us with open arms and we've enjoyed every step of this journey.

"Many things make this place special," he said, "but the thing that sticks out above all is that there's no doubt everybody here is committed to student success. (SMC) is a 61-year-old experiment out here in the cornfield and here we are, six decades removed from an idea that became a community college, and we're still living up to our motto, 'Knowledge for All.' That's because of the work you do here every day."

"My time here is ending," Odenwald said, "but I want you to know I'm going to continue to be interested in what you're doing and rooting for you. I have a lot of faith and confidence that SMC is going to continue to thrive."

Odenwald added, "I'm so glad we're finally able to get a renovation plan for the Lyons Building announced" in tandem with the new wrestling facility in the Room to Grow initiative.

"The college, with solid academics, inspiring performing and visual arts and competitive athletics, will be well-rounded unlike any in Michigan," Odenwald said.

Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Brent Brewer, who becomes interim president May 10, highlighted faculty and staff professional achievements:

•Emily Schrock, fundraising management certificate from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University Indianapolis.

•Nicole Lehman, MBA with a human resources concentration from Louisiana State University-Shreveport.

•Mike O'Brien, fundraising management certificate from

See SMC, Page A6

Berrien County Health Department hosting community baby shower May 17

COMMUNITY REPORT

BENTON HARBOR — The Berrien County Health Department will host a Community Baby Shower for first-time expectant parents on Saturday, May 17 to support their pregnancy journey and help them get connected to resources.

The free event will take place 1 to 4 p.m. at Mosaic CCDA, 1804 M-139, in Benton Harbor and feature information and resources for first-time parents who are up to 25 weeks in their pregnancy and not currently enrolled in a home visiting program. Attendees also will receive free snacks and a goodie bag with baby items and resources as well as the opportunity to play baby shower games, win door prizes and enter a raffle for additional baby supplies. Attendees do not need to be present to win door prizes and the raffle.

While registration is required, attendees can drop by any time during this all-ages indoor event. Registration is available online at berriencounty.org/650/21155/Nurse-Family-Partnership-NFP or by calling (269) 927-5631 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday or 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday.

First-time expectant parents are encouraged to bring along other loved ones who may care for their baby, like grandparents, aunts or uncles, siblings or friends.

"The Berrien County Health Department's Nurse-Family Partnership® team is pleased to host a Community Baby Shower for first-time expectant parents to help them navigate through pregnancy and the birth of their child," NFP coordinator Dorothy Parker said. "Attendees will be treated to an afternoon of fun, learning, free food and prizes.

"We are grateful to partner with so many wonderful community organizations who plan to join us at this special event. From doula and breastfeeding services to pregnancy support and early childhood resources, there will be important information for all first-time parents."

The following organizations will be on-site providing information and resources during the Community Baby Shower:

•Berrien Regional Education Service Agency's Early On program
•Birthmark Doula Services LLC
•Empowered Beginnings Doula Services
•LactPower
•LifePlan
•Michigan Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program
•Women, Infants and Children

BCHD's Nurse-Family Partnership program is a free service that supports first-time moms in Berrien County. The evidence-based program pairs eligible women who are having their first baby with a registered nurse from pregnancy through the child's second birthday. NFP seeks to:

•Help participants experience a healthy pregnancy.
•Promote healthy child development.
•Assist families with goal setting, support network development, parenting and more.

Niles Daily Star

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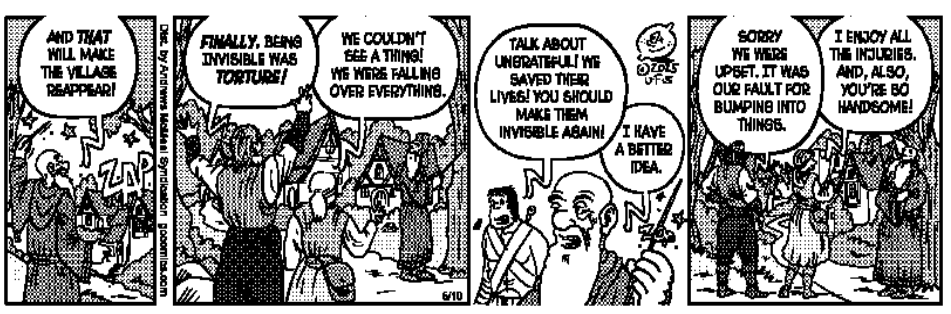
COMICS & PUZZLES

ADAM

I FIGURED OUT YOU WERE MEAN TO ME 'CAUSE YOU LIKE ME.
WHA?
IT'S A TALE AS OLD AS TIME, KEVIN. AND I MEAN, COULD ANYONE BLAME YOU?
WOW. YOU ARE REALLY SOMETHING.
EASY, ROMEO.
I SAID IT IN THE BAD WAY! YOU HEARD ME, RIGHT?

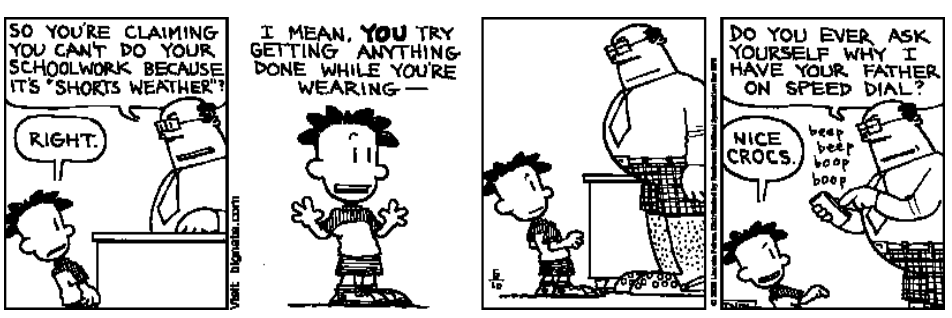
ALLEY OOP


AND THAT WILL MAKE THE VILLAGE REAPPEAR!
ZAP
FINALLY. BEING INVISIBLE WAS TORTURE!
WE COULDN'T SEE A THING! WE WERE FALLING OVER EVERYTHING.
TALK ABOUT UNGRATEFUL! WE SAVED THEIR LIVES! YOU SHOULD MAKE THEM INVISIBLE AGAIN!
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
SORRY WE WERE UPSET. IT WAS OUR FAULT FOR BUMPING INTO THINGS.
I ENJOY ALL THE INJURIES. AND, ALSO, YOU'RE SO HANDSOME!

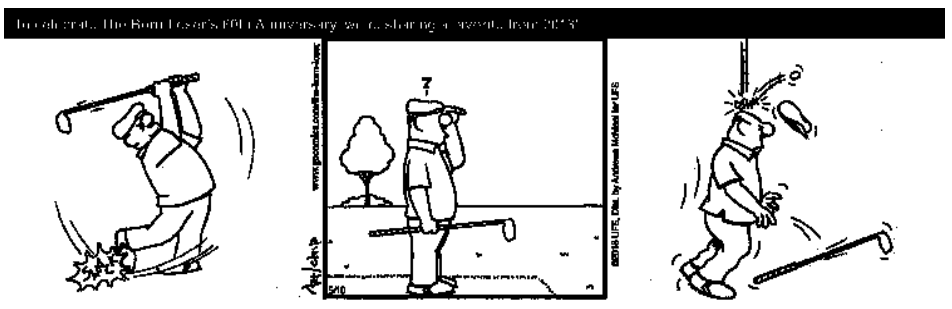
ARLO & JANIS

I ADMIT IT, MARY LOU! IT FEELS KIND OF ODD WALKING INTO YOUR HOME AND THINKING OF IT AS OURS!
WHY?
I DON'T KNOW. I FEEL LIKE SOME KIND OF... VULTURE!
THAT'S SILLY! OUR NEW HOUSE IS GOING TO BE PERFECT. THIS WAS A GREAT STARTER HOME, BUT WE NEED MORE.
WOW! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THIS AS OUR FINISHER HOME.

BIG NATE

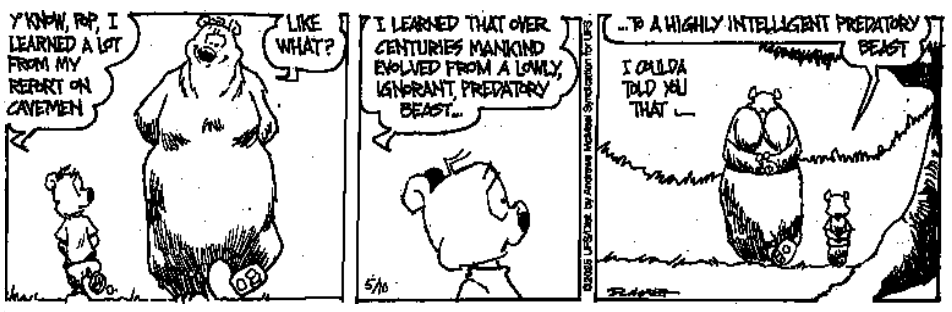

SO YOU'RE CLAIMING YOU CAN'T DO YOUR SCHOOLWORK BECAUSE IT'S "SHORTS WEATHER"?
RIGHT.
I MEAN, YOU TRY GETTING ANYTHING DONE WHILE YOU'RE WEARING—
DO YOU EVER ASK YOURSELF WHY I HAVE YOUR FATHER ON SPEED DIAL?
NICE CROCS.
beep beep boop boop

BORN LOSER

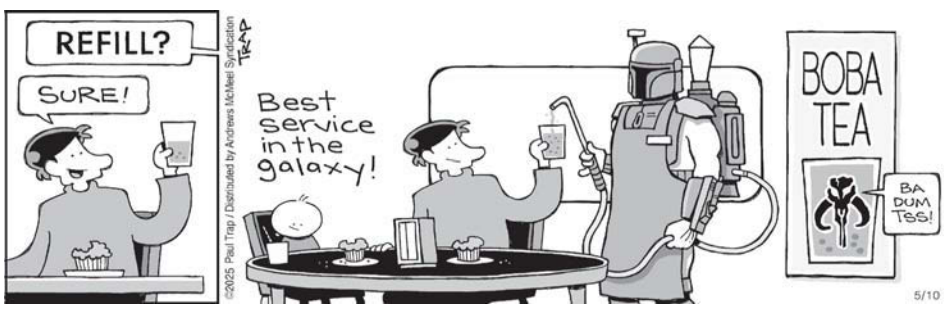


FRANK & ERNEST

GRIZZWELLS


Y'KNOW, POP, I LEARNED A LOT FROM MY REPORT ON CAVEMEN
LIKE WHAT?
I LEARNED THAT OVER CENTURIES MANKIND EVOLVED FROM A LOWLY, IGNORANT, PREDATORY BEAST...
I COULDA TOLD YOU THAT
...TO A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT PREDATORY BEAST

THATABABY



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SODOKU PUZZLE

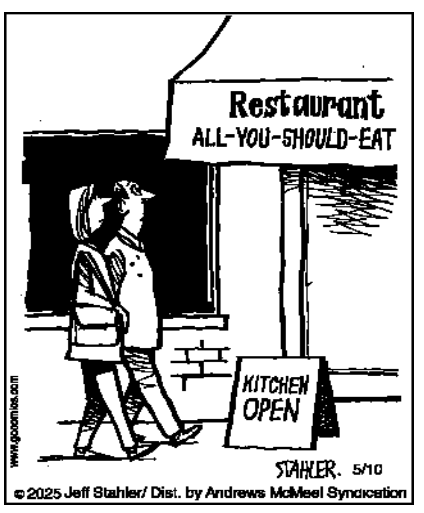
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

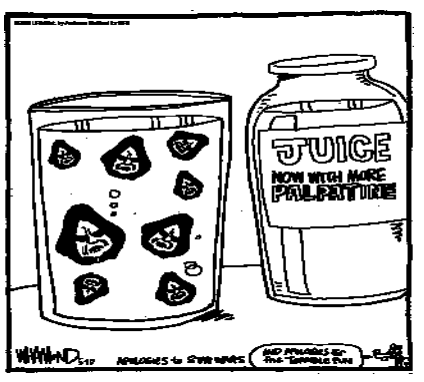
ANSWER ON PAGE 6

8	5		3	9	7			
				5		7		
	6		1	4				
6						8	7	
1				7				4
	9	8						1
				1	9		2	
		1		8				
			7	2	5		6	9

MODERATELY CONFUSED



REALITY CHECK



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

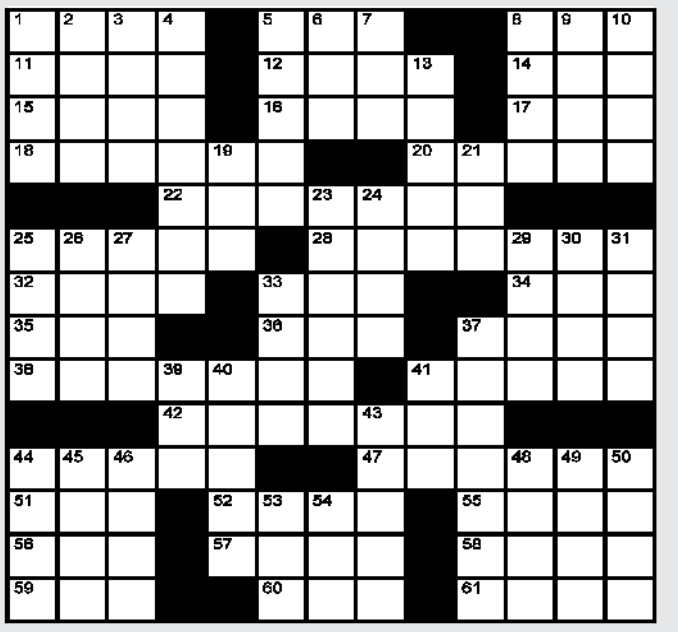
ACROSS

1 "All — and the Forty Thieves"
5 — — rule
8 Calendar abbr.
11 Israeli airline (Hyph.)
12 One and only
14 Mine's yield
15 Dirt
16 Ship part
17 Cereal grain
18 Greek goddess of the moon
20 "The Count of — Cristo"
22 Refined
25 Officer-to-be
28 Calcifies
32 Like a desert
33 Abbr. In an itinerary
34 Cobbler's cousin
35 Play on words
36 Weight unit
37 Type size
38 Feeling
41 Foot coverings
42 Expose to danger
44 Food from heaven
47 "— Eleven"
51 Common verb
52 Seize
55 Rowing team
56 Tyrannosaurus —
57 Palindromic name
58 Taj Mahal site
59 Devour
60 CPR expert
61 Horn sound

DOWN

1 "Porgy and —"
2 Soothing plant
3 Bucket handle
4 Said to be
5 Pale
6 Old French coin
7 Totality
8 Orbiting body in space
9 "I smell — —!"
10 Nerve network
13 "— Gantry"
19 After expenses
21 Past sell-by date
23 Seat fit for a king
24 Merit
25 Sleeveless garment
26 — lily
27 Fred and Wilma's pet
29 Long story
30 Shaving accident
31 Seven —
33 On the summit of
37 Weasel family member
39 Can
40 Insect stage
41 — passim
43 Mechanical man
44 Female animal
45 Zone
46 On deck
48 Ship in Greek myth
49 Detective — Wolfe
50 Strike
53 Abbr. on a map
54 PIN prompter

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



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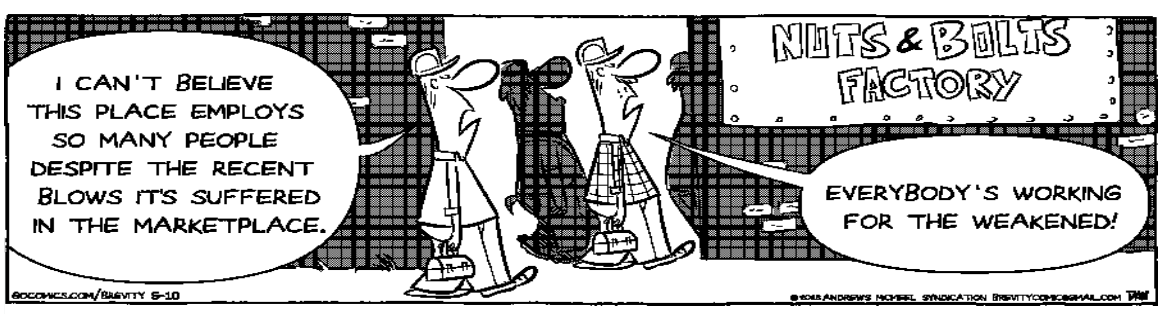
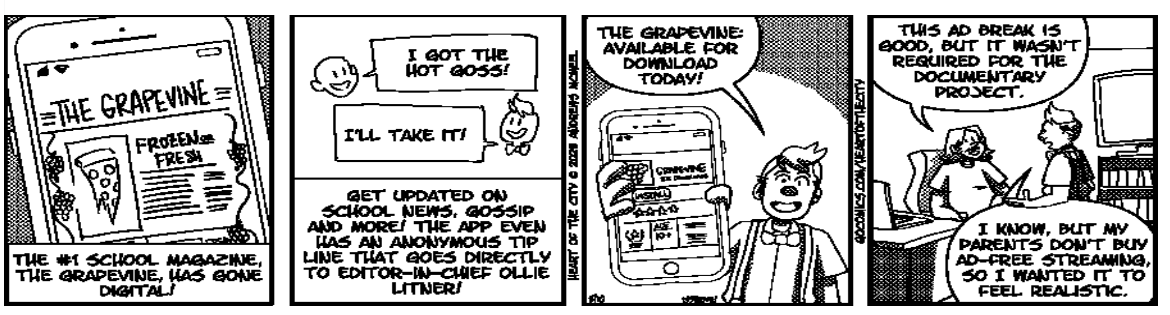
BREVITY


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS PLACE EMPLOYS SO MANY PEOPLE DESPITE THE RECENT BLOWS IT'S SUFFERED IN THE MARKETPLACE.
NUTS & BOLTS FACTORY
EVERYBODY'S WORKING FOR THE WEAKENED!

HEART OF THE CITY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FROZEN or FRESH
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I KNOW, BUT MY PARENTS DON'T BUY AD-FREE STREAMING, SO I WANTED IT TO FEEL REALISTIC.

SMC trails upgrade a tribute to Gunn

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — When a call went out to pay tribute to Southwestern Michigan College Hall of Fame Coach Ron Gunn, 219 individuals contributed.

Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Brent Brewer, who becomes interim president May 12, said May 7, "We gather to celebrate an exciting step forward for SMC and to honor the legacy of someone who built the foundation of our running community."

"The check presented today supports upgrades to the SMC trails," Brewer said. "Improvements will benefit current and future athletes, students and community members alike.

"These upgrades are dedicated in honor of former SMC Athletic Director and head coach of our cross country teams Ron Gunn. Coach Gunn's impact on SMC and the sport of running in our region is immeasurable," Brewer said. "His dedication, vision and passion shaped not only the athletic program, but entire generations of athletes."

Current Head Coach Zac Sartori, who leads cross country and track and field for men and women, said, "Ron did some amazing things in the '70s, '80s and '90s, including cutting these trails that we still use today. Over the years, some of the trail markings have gotten beat down. One thing I've had in my heart that I've wanted to do since I got here, walked down those trails and got lost myself, is to remap and update the markers so any member of the public can get out there and walk these trails, feeling confident that they know where they're going. Thankfully, Thom Janssen from the Monday Night Running Club jumped on board."

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

From left: Thom Janssen, Ron Gunn, Zac Sartori.

"The legacy Ron Gunn built still stands strong today," Sartori said. "I wouldn't have half the success I do right now if it wasn't for Ron Gunn. When I go to meets, people still ask me what Coach Gunn is up to, whether it's officials or other coaches. I'm elated to follow in his footsteps and pray that I can have that kind of legacy someday."

Janssen, presenting Sartori with a $5,429.89 check for the SMC Foundation, said the project began about a year ago with the more than 50-year-old Monday Night Running Club's desire to similarly honor Gunn with some park benches they observed at Potato Creek State Park.

One of four composite benches (the other three are at Potato Creek State Park southwest of South Bend, Ind., and Dr. T.K. Lawless and Love Creek county parks) has been placed at the trailhead behind the Charles O. Zollar Building on SMC's Dowagiac campus. "Some of us still get together," Janssen said. "Not to run, but we still can eat."

Janssen expounded on Gunn's style. "When you accomplish the goal at the end, such as hiking in and out of the Grand Canyon, you feel like you won a national championship," Janssen said. "All of your hard work, blood, sweat and tears, pay off. His super power is motivating and bringing people together. He doesn't whip you to make you do that, he makes you think you can do something you thought was impossible. You get out there and discover you can do a lot more than you thought you could.

"We've been going on hiking tours with his Cairn Stone Adventure Tours since 2007. When you pack 50 people on a bus for two weeks, that's usually not a pleasant experience. But the camaraderie — he brings out the best in people — gives you hope that maybe things could be better.

"We wanted to do something to let Coach Gunn know how much we appreciate what he has done to change each of our lives and there are literally hundreds of us," from retired judge Susan Dobrich to two-time national cross country champion Tom Ellspermann.

"Your presence here underscores the strong support of SMC Athletics, the importance of preserving and enhancing our trails and the lasting impact of Coach Ron Gunn's legacy," Development Manager Emily Schrock said.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Flynn is a dog from Berrien County Animal Services. This handsome and sweet soul is popular, loves to frolic and play with other dogs in the play yard. He's truly a sweetheart with a gentle nature. Flynn is 35 pounds, good with kids, neutered and current on shots. Contact Berrien County Animal Services at (269) 927-5648.

SMC

Continued from page A4

the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University Indianapolis.

•Kyra DeLoach, master's degree in educational technology from Michigan State University; graduate certificate in online teaching and learning from MSU; graduate certificate in educational technology from MSU; and NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) Introduction to Academic Advising.

•Rachel Breden, Salesforce Education Summit presentation, "Elevate End User Report Training with Engaging Activities."

•Madeline Collins, bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in marketing from Ferris State University.

•Branden Pompey and the Campus Life team, SLAMCC (Student Life Association for Michigan Community Colleges) award.

•Michelle Gibson, NCTA (National College Testing Association) certified proctor.

Service awards

•Director of Institutional Research Dr. Angela Evans, 25 years.

•Professor and Chair of Math/Science Ria Thomas, 25 years.

•Professor of Science-Biology Anna Norris, 25 years.

•Professor, Director of Choral Activities David Carew, 20 years.

•Director of Buildings and Grounds John Eberhart, 20 years.

•Interim Academic Affairs Coordinator Christine Smith, 20 years.

•Database Administrator Martin Bargerhuff, 20 years.

•Humanities and Social Science Professor Christy Young, 20 years.

•Business Professor Clifford "Chip" Weeks, 20 years.

•Professor and Social Science Chair Dr. Barbara Karwacinski, 20 years.

•Business Professor Jim Benak, 15 years.

•Jack Wood, Building and Grounds, 10 years.

•Technology Support Manager Tiffany Brooks, 10 years.

•Director of Campus Security Lyndon Parrish, 10 years.

•Science-Math Professor Dr. Douglas Schauer, 10 years.

•Dean of Nursing and Health Services Dr. Melissa Kennedy, 10 years.

•Math-Science Professor Gary Franchy, 10 years.

•Business Professor Andrew Churchill, five years.

•Manager of Development Emily Schrock, five years.

•Robotics Professor and Business Chair Larry Holz, five years.

•Graphic Design Professor Samuel Walker, five years.

•Professor and Director of Bands Mark Hollandsworth, five years.

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CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

B	A	B	A	■	A	S	A	■	■	M	A	R	■	■
E	L	A	L	■	S	O	L	E	■	O	R	E	■	■
S	O	I	L	■	H	U	L	L	■	O	A	T	■	■
S	E	L	E	N	E	■	■	M	O	N	T	E	■	■
■	■	■	G	E	N	T	E	E	L	■	■	■	■	■
C	A	D	E	T	■	H	A	R	D	E	N	S	■	■
A	R	I	D	■	A	R	R	■	■	P	I	E	■	■
P	U	N	■	■	T	O	N	■	P	I	C	A	■	■
E	M	O	T	I	O	N	■	S	O	C	K	S	■	■
■	■	■	I	M	P	E	R	I	L	■	■	■	■	■
M	A	N	N	A	■	■	O	C	E	A	N	S	■	■
A	R	E	■	G	R	A	B	■	C	R	E	W	■	■
R	E	X	■	O	T	T	O	■	A	G	R	A	■	■
E	A	T	■	■	E	M	T	■	T	O	O	T	■	■

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

8	5	4	3	9	7	2	1	6
2	1	9	8	5	6	7	4	3
3	6	7	1	4	2	9	8	5
6	4	5	9	3	1	8	7	2
1	3	2	5	7	8	6	9	4
7	9	8	2	6	4	5	3	1
5	7	6	4	1	9	3	2	8
9	2	1	6	8	3	4	5	7
4	8	3	7	2	5	1	6	9

DEATH NOTICES

Barry Nichols, 63, passed away April 28, 2025, Hoven Funeral Home.

Joseph Van den Driessche, 66, of Niles, passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at Memorial Hospital. Arrangements have been entrusted and pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Bridget Marie Kessler, 68, passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2025, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Denise Sayer, 76, of Niles, passed away Monday, May 05, 2025. Arrangements are currently pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Jeffery Wright, 59, of Edwardsburg, died Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis.

OBITUARIES

Carla Jean Lundeberg Campbell

November 15, 1949 - May 3, 2025

Carla Jean Lundeberg Campbell November 15, 1949 – May 3, 2025 If you ever heard laughter echoing from a tennis court, bridge table, or a community center game night, Carla Lundeberg was likely nearby. A lifelong sparkplug of joy and good humor, Carla passed away much too soon on May 3, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of fierce wit, loyal friendship, and deeply lived adventure. Born in Chicago on November 15, 1949, to Homer and Leontine (Larson) Lundeberg, Carla spent her early childhood in Park Ridge, Illinois before her family relocated to Dowagiac, Michigan in 1959. She graduated from Dowagiac Union High School in 1967 and studied at Southwestern Michigan College from 1967 to 1969. Carla married Max Campbell in 1970. While they remained amicable, they never divorced—a small but telling detail that reflects Carla's approach to life: practical, unconventional, and entirely her own. Carla shared the second half of her life with Greg Van Tuyle, the love of her life and the man who made her laugh every day. Together they made a bold leap in 1993, moving to Germany where Carla worked with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in Stuttgart and Frankfurt, occasionally even playing tennis with high-ranking officers. She embraced European life with signature enthusiasm and mapped out trips across the continent—from Turkey to North Africa, London to the Caribbean. She always had a trip in mind, and in recent months was plotting returns to Spain, Portugal, and Greece. After seven years abroad, Carla and Greg returned stateside, living in Woodbridge, Virginia, where she worked for the U.S. Marine Corps' New Parent Support Program at Quantico. They eventually retired in Eugene, Oregon in 2008. Before her European chapter, Carla worked for many years as a Court Magistrate in Cassopolis, Michigan—where her sharp mind and sense of fairness were put to excellent use. In retirement, she threw herself into volunteering, giving time to organizations like the local food bank, OASIS, Waste to Taste, the Eugene Airport, and especially the Eugene Marathon, which she supported each year—always alongside Greg. Carla was a passionate competitor and a fiercely seeded tennis player in her Michigan years. She never lost her love of the game or the thrill of watching a good match. A lifelong sports fan, she was always ready to talk football, tennis, or horse racing, and never missed a chance to cheer—loudly and loyally—for her adopted beloved Oregon Ducks. Carla also found joy in connection. She lit up community events at Eugene's Campbell Community Center, always made fast friends over Bridge tables, and turned casual game nights into cherished traditions. She was known as a sharp, aggressive, and wildly entertaining bridge player—feared, admired, and adored by her card-playing circle of friends. She is survived by her true companion and travel co-conspirator, Greg Van Tuyle of Eugene; her brother Jeffrey Lundeberg of Dowagiac; and a large extended family of nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends across the United States —and Europe. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Linda Wilke of Galena, Illinois, and her brother Philip Lundeberg of Fresno, California. To know Carla was to be lifted by her energy. She didn't just enter a room—she transformed it. She had a way of making people feel like they mattered, often while beating them at cards or making them laugh until they cried. She was one of a kind, and she'll be missed more than words can say. As per her wishes, no memorial service will be held. Carla's ashes will be placed in the sea—a fitting resting place for someone whose spirit was always on the move. "When people die, they cannot be replaced. They leave holes that cannot be filled, for it is the fate ... of every human being to be a unique individual ..." —Oliver Sacks

Fannie Clarentine Mitchell

August 30, 1939 - May 2 ,2025

Fannie Clarentine Mitchell, 85, of Cassopolis, formerly of Decatur, Michigan, died peacefully Friday evening May 2, 2025.

Her life began August 30, 1939 in Moark, Arkansas the oldest of four children and only daughter born to Raymond and Lettie Avery. She married Ivan "Ike" Elzie Mitchell in Poplar City, Illinois. He preceded her in death in 1988.

Fannie will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by one son, Glen Mitchell of Decatur; two brothers, Raymond Otto (Linda) Avery of Burr Oak, Michigan, James Arthur (Joyce) Avery of St. Petersburg, Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Jerry A. Mitchell; and one brother, Herman Avery.

Family and friends will gather Wednesday, May 7, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. until time of service at 2:00 p.m. in Volinia Baptist Church, 19526 Marcellus Highway, Decatur with Pastor Thomas Stout officiating. Mrs. Mitchell will be interred beside her beloved husband in Nicholsville (Rose Hill) Cemetery in Volinia Township.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Fannie be made to Glen Mitchell, c/o Wagner Family Funerals, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Marybeth York

August 29, 1938 - November 19, 2024

Mary Elizabeth York, known to all of her friends and family as "MaryBeth", was called home on November 19, 2024.

MaryBeth was born on August 29, 1938 to John and Lucy Zebley in Dearborn, Michigan. MaryBeth graduated from Spring Arbor High School in Spring Arbor, Michigan in 1955.

Following that she married Jack York. After obtaining a teaching credential for the state of Michigan, MaryBeth held a position as an elementary teacher at Bean Elementary school in Spring Arbor until the family moved to Niles, Michigan in 1972. MaryBeth taught in multiple positions within the Niles school systems until her retirement.

She was also a dedicated member of Mapleview Free Methodist Church in Niles, Michigan, having helped organize and undertake missions work on their behalf.

MaryBeth was a dedicated mother to children Brian and Sue, as well as a beloved grandmother to Jacob York, who brought joy to her life. MaryBeth is preceded in death by her parents John and Lucy Bell (Deffenbaugh) Zebley, and her siblings Dorothea, Wesley and Lawrence. She is survived by her children Brian (wife: Betsy) and Sue Koenig (husband: Bruce) as well as her grandson Jacob York.

MaryBeth's love, dedication, and loyalty will be deeply missed by all who knew her. A memorial will be held at Mapleview Free Methodist Church in

Niles, Michigan on May 17, 2024 at 11AM. In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to the Mapleview Free Methodist Church missions fund in her memory.

Stephen Thomas Wright

June 13, 1968 - April 29, 2025

Stephen Thomas Wright, 56, of Cassopolis, died unexpectedly, Tuesday April 29, 2025.

His life began June 13, 1968, in Dowagiac, the first of two born to George Thomas and Arlene Jessup Wright.

Steve was an active 4-H member as a teen-ager, he was also actively involved in the Future Farmers of America. Steve was awarded his State FFA Degree in 1986, he then went on to be awarded the National FFA Degree in 1987. He graduated from Dowagiac High School in 1986. Steve was the sixth generation of the Wright family who were original settlers of Cass County in the 1820's. He worked on and lived at, the family's dairy and grain farm in Lagrange Township all his life. On March 24, 2018 he opened Wright Farms Market in Dowagiac, building a business to serve his community. He could often be found plowing snow or mowing grass depending on the season. Steve was a John Deere enthusiast, collecting memorabilia and hats. He loved Christmas and Christmas music, even leaving up one tree all year to enjoy. Steve could envision something and make it reality, especially the Farm Market with the help of his crew of friends.

Stephen will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by two daughters, Sarah Boyer of Holt, Mary Wright of Cassopolis; one sister, Denise (Gene) Stockwell of Dowagiac; longtime girlfriend, Betsy Kephart of Cassopolis; two nieces Elizabeth Stockwell, Olivia Stockwell; one nephew, Jonathan Stockwell and "Little Brother" Brian Townsend. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Family and friends will gather Friday, May 9, 2025, 4:00p.m. with his service at 6:00p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. Inurnment will take place at a later date.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Stephen be made to Pokagon Volunteer Fire Department, 31555 Pokagon Hwy, Niles, MI 49120

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

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COURT

Continued from page A3

possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to three years probation in the Adult Treatment Court, completion of the Twin County Probation program, credit for 66 days served and $2,628 in fines and costs.

Roberts

The incident occurred Jan. 17, 2025 in Cassopolis when police found a glass meth pipe and meth during a traffic stop. Roberts has 10 prior felony convictions, six for illegal drugs. He also served a short prison sentence in Indiana and was discharged in 2022.

"You previously successfully completed the ATC program in 2018 in St. Joseph County (Michigan)," Judge Herman said. "I'm less than impressed that you completed that and then was convicted of burglary in Indiana and served prison time."

Roberts told the judge that he's "sick and tired" of his lifestyle and wants to get away from drugs.

"I will give you this opportunity but I don't have a lot of patience," the judge said. "You need to get engaged and involved. If you're unsuccessful, you will be going back to prison. I hope you take this opportunity seriously. We're here to help you, it's a matter of whether you step up to the plate."

A Cass County man was sentenced to probation for failing to pay his child support.

Kristopher Moorman, 45, was convicted by a Cass County jury March 18 and was sentenced Friday to three years probation, credit for 19 days served, $2,628 in fines and costs and $11,245 in restitution.

> "I will give you this opportunity but I don't have a lot of patience."
> — **Judge Herman**

The mother of Moorman's daughter spoke before sentencing and said that non-payment of child support is not a victimless crime and that her daughter will be the one to suffer if Moorman continues to not pay support.

Moorman

Judge Herman noted that he has sent people to prison for non-payment in the past but that he wants Moorman to continue to work and pay his arrearage. He pointed out that any new conviction will raise the mandatory minimum sentence to 10 months in jail.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Congressman Tim Walberg (MI-05) met with Robert Vieira, a constituent who had been detained in Tunisia since January 2024.

Michigander held in Tunisia returns home

COMMUNITY REPORT

WASHINGTON D.C. — Congressman Tim Walberg (MI-05) met with Robert Vieira, a constituent who had been detained in Tunisia since January 2024.

Tunisian authorities had wrongfully accused Vieira of espionage while he was completing missionary work and detained him in January 2024. Congressman Walberg said he worked with the Trump administration to fight for the release of Vieira. Vieira was released and returned to the United States on April 13.

"I was honored to meet with Robert Vieira, a constituent of mine who was wrongfully detained in Tunisia, and hear firsthand about his experience," Walberg said. "I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the Trump administration and my team of caseworkers for helping secure his release and safe return to the U.S. I'm beyond relieved that Robert has been reunited with his family as Michigan welcomes him home with open arms."

"My family and I sincerely appreciate the efforts of Congressman Walberg and his team of caseworkers for making my freedom a reality," Vieira added. "I am deeply grateful to be back in Michigan and reunited with my loved ones again. If you are ever in need of casework assistance, I strongly recommend that you reach out to Congressman Walberg who stands ready to help."

GRANTS

Continued from page A1

Make It in Michigan economic development strategy, supporting the people, places, and projects that are integral to the growth of Michigan's economy," Gov. Whitmer said. "These investments will help create vibrant places that attract and retain talent, add critical housing, enable business creation and attraction, and provide resources for Michiganders and our communities. I will work with anyone and do anything to continue getting things done for our state."

Administered by MEDC, the RAP program provides access to gap financing for place-based infrastructure development, real estate rehabilitation and development, and public space improvements. Eligible applicants are individuals or entities working to rehabilitate vacant, underutilized, blighted and historic structures and the development of permanent place-based infrastructure associated with traditional downtowns, social-zones, outdoor dining and placed-based public spaces.

"The MEDC is proud to celebrate the places that make our state great and excited to see the impact these RAP grants have on our communities," said MEDC Chief Place Officer Michele Wildman. "Thanks to Governor Whitmer and the Michigan legislature's support for this program, the revitalization and place-making efforts in communities across our two peninsulas will create meaningful opportunity for every Michigander who calls our state home."

NARCAN

Continued from page A1

in the state in 2017, and prescription opioids were involved in over 70percent of those deaths. In Cass County, alcohol and marijuana use continue to have the highest negative impacts on residents, but heroin and other drug use were 6-12percent of hospital admissions in 2020 and disproportionately high in the court system.

In February, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported nearly 24percent decline in U.S. drug overdose deaths.

"By offering Narcan vending machines at our Cass and Niles and soon-to-be Dowagiac facilities, it is our hope that our sustained efforts will help reduce the opioid epidemic in our small corner of the country," said Cass Family Clinic CEO Joe Gavan. "We're also looking into additional resources, such as fentanyl test strips that can be used to test drugs for the presence of fentanyl, to expand our treatment initiatives."

The Cass Family Clinic's Narcan vending machines are located in the foyer of each facility, and are accessible during clinic hours: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

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PRISON

Continued from page A1

and the impact it had on the victim. The guidelines, which are advisory and not mandatory, were originally 42 to 70 months and were raised to 108 to 180 months.

The victim spoke briefly before the sentencing. She said the abuse lasted for years, that she felt isolated at the time and that she was seeking justice for herself and her child.

"I don't think any words I can say can give you justice from your standpoint, but I hope you get closure today," Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gordon Hosbein said.

In addition to objecting to elements of the initial sentencing guidelines, Koch also asked Judge Hosbein to exceed the guidelines.

"He did these actions over a long period of time and they had a ripple effect on the victim and others," she said.

Wright apologized to the victim and her family.

In handing down the prison sentence, Judge Hosbein concluded that the sentencing guidelines-even at their higher levels-did not take into account the specifics of this incident including how Wright's actions affected the victim.

"It leads me to believe that there is reason to go above and beyond the guidelines," the judge said. "The guidelines don't encapsulate the circumstances of the case."

Other area residents received probation and jail terms in sentencings Monday at the Niles courthouse.

Tyshon Lamareon Newman, 23, of Benton Harbor, pleaded guilty to three counts of identity theft and possession with intent to deliver forged or counterfeit identification cards and was sentenced to two years probation in the Swift & Sure Sanctions Program, 300 days in jail with credit for 53 days served and $802 in fines and costs.

Newman

The incidents occurred in late 2023 at locations around the county including in Niles.

Berrien County Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Vigansky argued against probation and for a prison sentence. Vigansky cited Newman's past record and past failure on probation.

Defense attorney Joseph Fletcher said his client made poor decisions and hopefully can turn his life around. Newman apologized for and took responsibility for his actions, adding that he's not a bad person.

Judge Hosbein said that identity theft can have a significant effect on the victims, with it taking a long time for them to get their identity back. "These offense can be very harmful to people," he said. "... I believe you can come out of this a better person, I hope you take advantage of this probation."

Amanda Jo Holcomb, 45, of Benton Harbor, pleaded guilty to use of methamphetamine and receiving, concealing or possession of a stolen vehicle and was sentenced to credit for 47 days served on the meth charge and three years probation, 304 days in jail with credit for 47 days served and completion of the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program.

Holcomb

Holcomb must pay $598 in fines and costs and $21,500 in restitution.

The incident occurred July 27, 2024 in Niles.

"It's pretty safe to say that she would not be here except for meth," defense attorney Daniel French said. "She didn't steal the vehicle but she was in the vehicle."

"I didn't know the vehicle was stolen and I'm sorry to the family," Holcomb said. "I do have an addiction to meth and need help for that."

Jennifer Lynn Wood, 46, of Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to breaking and entering a building with intent to commit larceny and was sentenced to 300 days in jail with credit for 163 days already served. She must pay $198 in fines and costs.

Wood

The incident occurred May 17, 2024 in Berrien Township. Wood also faces charges in Cass County and can serve this jail sentence in any penal institution.

In other sentencings:

• LaTosha Marie Banks, 42, of Niles, pleaded guilty to attempted carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to credit for two days served and $258 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Feb. 12 in Niles Township.

Banks

• Nickolas Phin Patterson, 32, of Niles, pleaded guilty to use of methamphetamine and attempted carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for three days served and $708 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Feb. 1 in Niles Township.

Patterson

• Casey Rae Thomas, 43, of Niles, pleaded guilty to attempted carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to credit for two days served and $383 in fines and costs. The incident occurred Nov. 22, 2024 in Niles.

Niles Daily Star
Sports

GOT RESULTS?
max.harden@leaderpub.com

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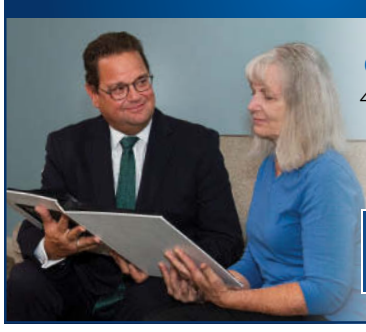

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BASEBALL

Brandywine baseball wins second-straight Lakeland title

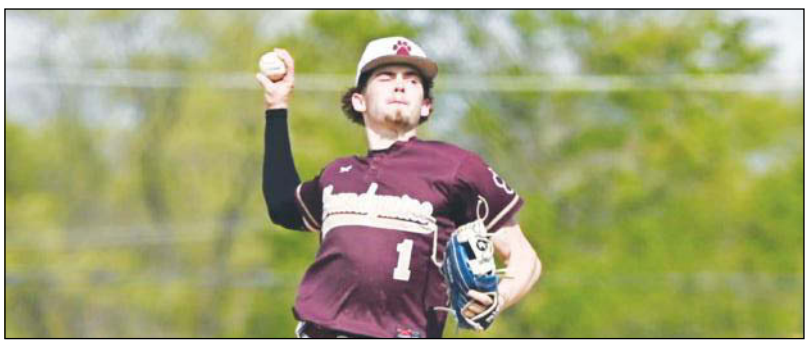


PHOTO COURTESY OF TANYA HAGEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — The Brandywine baseball team improved to 12-7 Tuesday with a sweep of host Dowagiac to win another Lakeland Conference championship.

The win gives the Bobcats (7-1 LAC) its second-consecutive LC title.

Tuesday night, Brandywine defeated Dowagiac 9-3 in the opening game as Hudson Aalfs and Emerson Gogley combined on a five-hitter with nine strikeouts. Kaleb Smith struck out five batters and gave up four hits and one earned run for Dowagiac.

The Bobcats had seven hits against the Chieftains, including three each by Kaeden Warfield and Ryder Richard. Richard tripled and drove in a run. Chase Frazier had two hits to lead the Chieftains

In the nightcap, Brandywine blew out Dowagiac 2-0 in a seven-inning contest.

Richaard tossed a two-hitter with 11 strikeouts for the victory and Wimberley four hits and six strikeouts in the loss. Richard also drove in the deciding two runs in the third inning. Caiden Freeman and Jamal Williams had Dowagiac's two hits.

The Bobcats had four hits, all singles.

FOOTBALL

Ferris State transfer Hunt-Thompson commits to North Texas

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

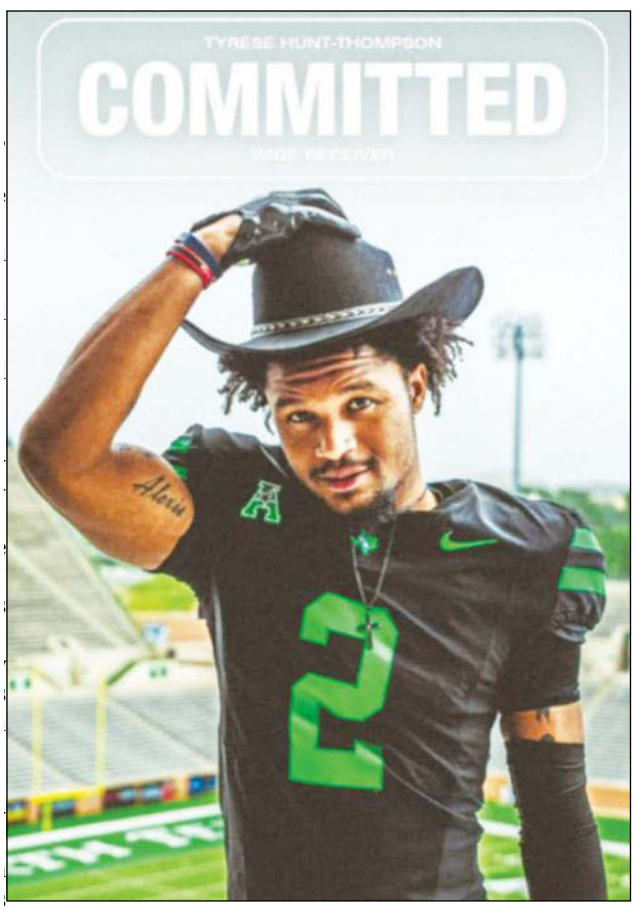
DENTON, Tx. — A former Cassopolis standout has found his new collegiate home in the Lone Star State.

Cassopolis native Tyrese Hunt-Thompson announced his commitment to Division 1 North Texas University on Twitter/X on Monday afternoon. The Mean Green compete in the American Athletic Conference and finished the 2024 season with a 6-7 record.

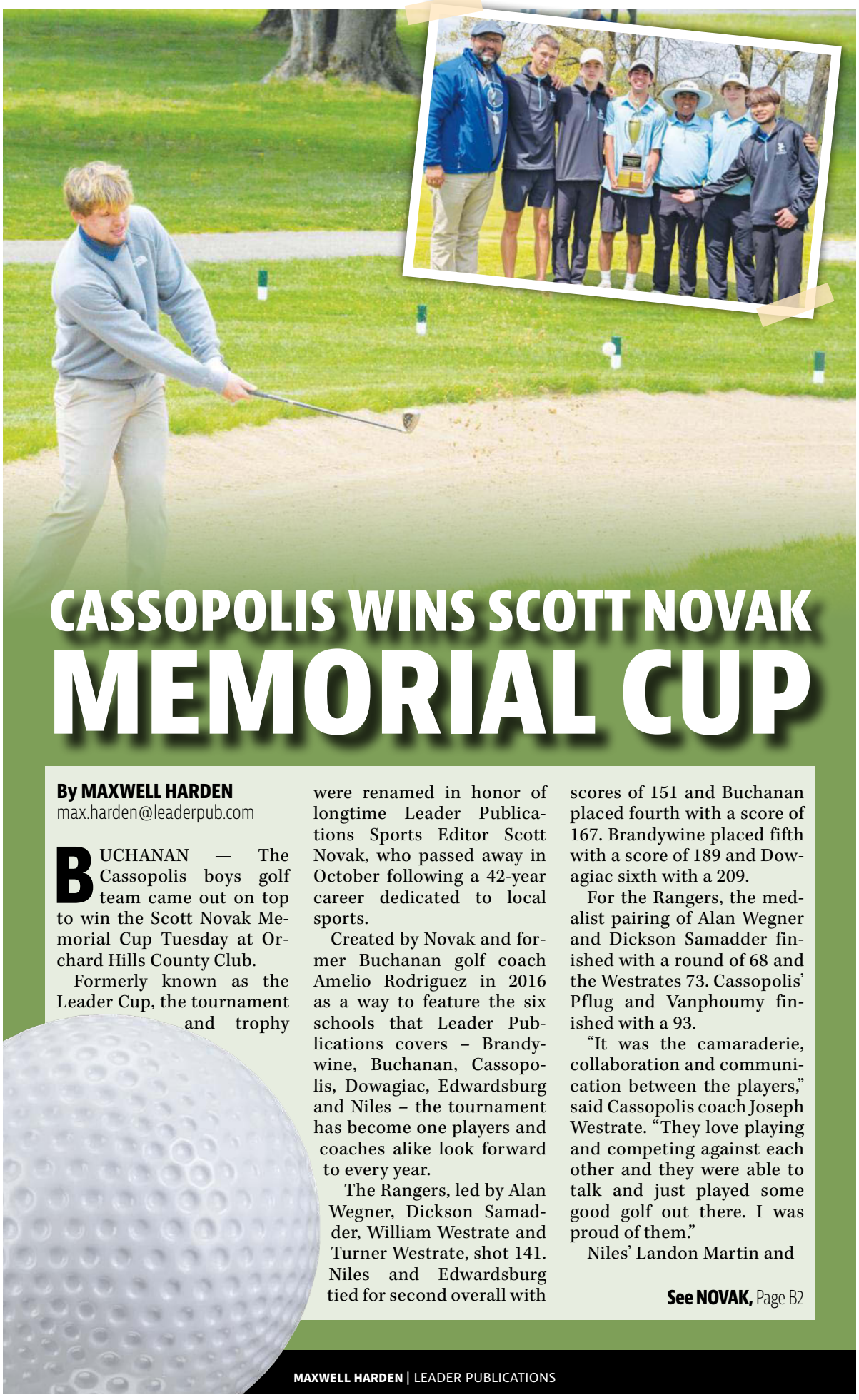
A three-time NCAA national champion and two-time first-team All-GLIAC, Hunt-Thompson compiled 102 catches for 2,019 yards and 23 touchdowns in 34 games as a Bulldog. Hunt-Thompson said North Texas was the right choice because of the opportunity for playing time and his fit in their offensive system.

"They're giving me an opportunity to come in and play and obtain a starting job," he said. "Obviously anywhere I go, I'll have to go prove myself and show them I can be that and that's with anywhere I chose to go. I truly believe I'm a great fit for their system and they throw a ball a ton. My goal for next year is simple: be the person I know I can be on a higher level, produce and be dominant in everything I do."

Friends and family will have a chance to see Hunt-Thompson suit up close to home when Western Michigan hosts North Texas Saturday, Sept. 6.



GOLF



CASSOPOLIS WINS SCOTT NOVAK MEMORIAL CUP

By MAXWELL HARDEN
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BUCHANAN — The Cassopolis boys golf team came out on top to win the Scott Novak Memorial Cup Tuesday at Orchard Hills County Club.

Formerly known as the Leader Cup, the tournament and trophy were renamed in honor of longtime Leader Publications Sports Editor Scott Novak, who passed away in October following a 42-year career dedicated to local sports.

Created by Novak and former Buchanan golf coach Amelio Rodriguez in 2016 as a way to feature the six schools that Leader Publications covers – Brandywine, Buchanan, Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Edwardsburg and Niles – the tournament has become one players and coaches alike look forward to every year.

The Rangers, led by Alan Wegner, Dickson Samadder, William Westrate and Turner Westrate, shot 141. Niles and Edwardsburg tied for second overall with scores of 151 and Buchanan placed fourth with a score of 167. Brandywine placed fifth with a score of 189 and Dowagiac sixth with a 209.

For the Rangers, the medalist pairing of Alan Wegner and Dickson Samadder finished with a round of 68 and the Westrates 73. Cassopolis' Pflug and Vanphoumy finished with a 93.

"It was the camaraderie, collaboration and communication between the players," said Cassopolis coach Joseph Westrate. "They love playing and competing against each other and they were able to talk and just played some good golf out there. I was proud of them."

Niles' Landon Martin and

See NOVAK, Page B2

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

SOCCER

McDonald breaks Dowagiac's single-season scoring record

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

DOWAGIAC — Johannah McDonald etched her name into the Dowagiac Union High School soccer record book Friday, May 2.

The junior midfielder now sits at the top of the girls soccer single-season scoring list, scoring her 33rd and 34th goals of the season in a 6-3 home loss to Three Rivers. The game was tied 2-2 at halftime.

Her 34 goals eclipsed former Chieftains standout Breanna Williams, who held the school record since 2012.

"I didn't even know I had it yet," she said. "I thought I was at 33 and they announced it. I was like 'I got it – I got my goal this season' and my coach said 'I counted it four times and you got it.'"

"She's done it the right way," said head coach Joe Pasternak. "She just puts her head down and dribbles. She's still making the through balls that she's supposed to and she's not making us a one-dimensional team where we just look for her to score. She makes it a team game and she's still been finding ways to score."

McDonald has led a young Chieftains team that features just two upperclassmen to a 7-6-1 record. For Pasternak, McDonald's dedication to the game sets a positive example for his team.

"It's not just that she scores the goals. She's a leader on and off the field," said "She's consistently there all off season trying to get the other girls to focus on the offseason because that's where championships are won – in the off season. If you don't show up during the offseason, you're not going to get any better. So she's been really good at trying to lead the girls to do that, as well as being present during the season. She's leading that charge."

With the second half of the season awaiting her, McDonald is all alone at the top but she does not mind. In fact, she has her sights set on breaking the school's overall record of 40 goals set by former boys soccer standout Steve Mazimpaka in 1996. McDonald said she owes much of her success on the pitch to the experience she has gained playing travel soccer in the summer.

"I'm the only one on the team that plays travel," she said. "I have experience and then just knowing when I can get around defenders and when I need to pass. There's specific teams where I know I need to get the one-two and then other teams where I can dribble around them."

McDonald believes her team has what it takes to make a run at districts and beyond.

"I would love for us to win districts," she said. "We saw today that we can beat this team. We just need to keep our focus. I would like to win districts and get to regionals for the team."

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

As she continues to rewrite the record books, McDonald is proud to be a Chieftain and aims to show just what Dowagiac athletes are capable of.

"I like proving that I am like a force to be reckoned with," she said. "Just because I go to Dowagiac doesn't mean that I'm not good. I don't need to go to Lakeshore or St. Joe to be a good player."

GOLF

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Area coaches reflect on Novak's lasting impact

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BUCHANAN — While Tuesday's tournament offered coaches the opportunity to watch their teams improve as regional tournaments approach, they also took time to appreciate Novak's legacy in southwest Michigan.

Like most of the coaches, Bob Turner remembers Novak covering his exploits as a high school athlete.

"I thought about him all day when I was at school, " he said. "He got this thing rolling, and I'm just happy that my guys could come out, and work on getting better and before it's all said and done, maybe one year we'll get lucky and compete for it. Orchard Hills does a great job with the course – they treat us, right. It's just a wonderful thing. Every year, my kids look forward to this."

Westrate and his team were happy to hoist the trophy that now bears Novak's name and continue his legacy.

"He was an incredible individual," Westrate said. "Just giving all the time. He's sorely missed. You just can't replace a guy like that. It's an honor to win it and now that it's named after him, we're just happy to represent. I'm very proud and happy that his legacy will continue forever."

Like Turner, Douglass remembers Novak being a constant presence at his high school sporting events.

"It's a big honor because when I was in high school, he took a lot of pictures of me playing baseball and football and all that stuff," he said. "I think it's a great thing that we keep it going."

Niles Head Coach Dan Brawley has known Novak for years and appreciates everything he did for local sports.

"He's the reason why we're here and these kids had a ball today," he said. "His legacy lives on through this. He made this happen – he called a couple coaches and said 'hey, what do you think of this' and we were all like yeah, that would be great. We'll give that a try. Orchard Hills is nice enough to let us come out here to a beautiful golf course, we had a beautiful day for it. The kids had a great time and I know Scott's looking down on us and he's happy to see this."

Orchard Hills PGA Pro George Pullen was happy to host the Scott Novak Memorial Cup again to support the local teams and continue Novak's legacy.

"It means a lot," he said. "We know a lot of the kids here in the community from being here for so long. My son played in the Leader Cup, when he was in high school at Niles and Scott's been a major part of for as long as I can remember. It's good for us to host it and to give back to the community a little bit."

Amelio Rodriguez worked alongside Novak for almost 10 years at Leader Publications as a sportswriter and photojournalist. The two became fast friends, which allowed Rodriguez to witness firsthand the impact Novak had and continues to have on the community.

"To see the Leader Cup changed to the Scott Novak Memorial Cup is bittersweet and brings both a smile to my face and a tear to my eye," he said. "Scott was Leader Publications Sports. He and I came up with the idea of the Leader Cup so all six local high schools could compete against each other in a tournament since everyone was in different conferences. He always called it my baby, but he was the backbone behind it all.

"To see the cup renamed in his honor is fitting, because HE WAS Leader Sports, and it shows you what the high school coaches thought of him as a person. It's a great honor and tribute, but it's sad because we all miss Scott and would rather have him covering the tournament, than being honored by the name change. But he deserved it, and it's the least we could do for all that he did for high school sports."

NOVAK

Continued from page B1

Blake Hopper shot 75 and Gavyn Luke and Owen Podlin a 76. Carson Wright and Max Rucker fired a 91.

For Edwardsburg, Cody Schaap and Ben Fish shot 70 and Maverick Gates and Brandon Vanoverberghe a 81. Michael Wright and Joseph Wright carded a 83.

The duo of Dean Wegner and Tyler Frame fired a 80 to lead the Bucks and Austin Gregory and Jacob Kuntz 87. Gabe Tompkins and Carson Shelton finished with a 107.

Davis Lotsbaich and Jayden Thomas led Brandywine with 89 and Blake Magyar and Nolan Shaffer tallied 100. Cody Hoskin and Craft fired a 114.

"I think we did pretty well," said Brandywine coach Max Douglass. "Not the greatest on the direction of where we want the ball to go, but everybody was having fun and smiling so I was happy with that."

For Dowagiac, James Greene and Bond led with a 93 and Keegan Franklin and Keagan Monroe 116. Hunter Steinman and Cooper Szymczak carded 118 for the Chieftains.

"We're extremely young," said Dowagiac coach Bob Turner. Just being here and getting experience was good for us. I couldn't miss it because today's all about Scott."

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

SOCCER

Edwardsburg girls soccer falls 7-1 to Vicksburg

By Scott Hassinger
Leader Publications Contributor

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

TOP: Victoria Cole (14) from Edwardsburg battles Vicksburg's Emelyn German (11) for possession of the ball in the Lady Eddies end of the field.
ABOVE: Amalia Szalaia (15) from Edwardsburg moves the ball upfield ahead of Vicksburg's Renna Caswell (6).

EDWARDSBURG — It might not show up in the win-loss column, but Edwardsburg girls soccer coach Sean Jesse continues to see daily improvement from his Lady Eddies.

Unfortunately any positives were overshadowed by an experienced Vicksburg squad which left town with a 7-1 Wolverine Conference win in Edwardsburg Monday.

The loss drops the Lady Eddies to 2-10 overall, including a 1-5 mark in the conference.

"Vicksburg is a good team that moves the ball very well. They are physical, talented and athletic. I thought we matched up well with them, but we needed to play a perfect match to keep up with them. We definitely had some moments today when we were a little bit sloppy and uncoordinated," said Edwardsburg head coach Sean Jesse. "I thought if we had handled the diagonal balls that we had a little better that would've put some pressure on them. Vicksburg plays with three defenders in the back and we have the ability to split that, but unfortinately we weren't able to do that today. That has alot to do with their defense, but I think we had a bit of an off day tonight as well."

Vicksburg built themselves a 5-0 advantage after the first 40 minutes.

Scoring goals for the Bulldogs in the opening half were Hannah Fletter (33:20), Emelyn Germay (32:01), Evelyn Lincoln (29:38), Lila Smith (23:07) and Noelle Germay (11:08).

Vicksburg added two goals during the second half. Hannah DeVries tallied one for the Bulldogs at 16:47 and Madison Rohrstaff found the net with 1:27 left in the match.

Edwardsburg's lone goal came at the 4:42 mark of the final half by senior Alexandria Ferguson and it was unassisted.

Vicksburg earned a 27-2 advantage over Edwardsburg in shots on goal.

Edwardsburg's sophomore and No. 1 goalie Mallory Schrock recorded 11 saves, while Allison Dyczko added a pair of saves for the Lady Eddies late in the first half.

"We are a team that will battle you. Vicksburg pulled us out of position alot in the first half. I can't fault our girls' effort though. They work their tail off every single match and practice," Jesse said.

Vicksburg had five corner kicks to none for Edwardsburg.

FOOTBALL

Hess signs with Indiana Wesleyan football

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

NILES — After wrapping up his historic play on the field at Niles High School, senior Paul Hess has signed a national letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana.

Hess was a standout for the Vikings at both running back and linebacker, earning first-team Wolverine Conference honors and Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Region at linebacker in Division 4.

He tallied 1,222 yards and 14 touchdowns last season to help lead Niles to a program-record 13 wins and a Division 4 State Finals berth.

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Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

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Notices

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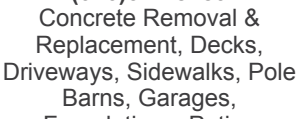

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Miscellaneous Services

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Miscellaneous Services

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- Demolition

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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES
BERRIEN COUNTY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
(DRAFT NEW ZONING ORDINANCE)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That the City of Niles Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on **May 28, 2025 at 5:30PM Local Time** for the purpose of receiving public comments on a proposed new Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map for the City of Niles to amend and replace the existing Zoning Ordinance adopted on January 22, 2007, pursuant to the Zoning Enabling Act, Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended. The public hearing will be held at the Niles City Hall at 333 North Second Street in Niles, Michigan, 49120. Comments may be made in person during the public hearing or written comments may be submitted beforehand. Written comments should be received by the City by **12:00 p.m. (noon)** on the day of the public hearing and addressed to the City of Niles Planning Commission, 333 North Second Street, Niles, MI 49120, or emailed to communitydevelopment@nilesmi.org.

A summary of the proposed new Zoning Ordinance is as follows:

Article 1: Title, Purpose, Scope
This Article discusses the title and purposes regarding the proposed new Zoning Ordinance. The new ordinance shall be known as the "City of Niles Zoning Ordinance." There are multiple purposes supporting the new Zoning Ordinance.

Article 2: Definitions
This Article contains the definitions of various words, phrases, and clauses for purposes of the Zoning Ordinance.

Article 3: General Provisions
The use of all land, structures, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair and moving of all structures within the City of Niles shall conform with all applicable provisions of this Ordinance unless the nonconformance is a matter of record on the effective date of this Ordinance.

Article 4. Zoning Districts, Land Use Table and Zoning Map
This Article discusses the purpose of this Ordinance, an overview of dimensional requirements and district regulations. This Article includes the City of Niles Zoning Ordinance Map.

Article 5. District Regulations
This Article sets forth an intent statement, provides for permitted uses, special land uses, dimensional standards, and other requirements for properties in the R-1, R-2, CB, NC, RC, OC, IND, OS, MHP, and WHP District.

Article 6. Reserved for Future Use
This Article is blank at this time and is reserved for future use.

Article 7. Signs
This Article sets for a purpose and intent, sign definitions, sign permits, exempt signs, prohibited signs, general sign provisions, nonconforming signs, temporary signs and permanent signs in the R-1, R-2, CB, NC, RC, OC, IND, OS, MHP, and WHP District.

Article 8. Special Land Uses
This Article contains standards and regulations for the review of applications for special land use approval. It also contains standards for specific land uses, including, but not limited to, accessory buildings, accessory dwelling units, adult uses, airports, places of assembly, bed and breakfast establishments, contractor's facilities, camps or campgrounds, car wash, cemeteries, commercial establishments with drive-throughs, construction equipment sales and supplies, day care, vocational school or trade school, foster care, funeral homes, galleries and museums, gasoline station, golf courses, home based business, hotels and motels, kennels and animal clinic, laboratories, dry cleaning establishments, self-storage, nursing homes, taverns and lounges, retail business, sand and gravel mine, social club, recreational facility, marihuana establishments, vehicle repair facility, and wireless communication tower.

Article 9. Site Development Standards
This Article states the purpose and intent of the site plan review, site plan review procedure and requirements, Planning Commission Review, procedures for review and approval, and performance standards. This Article contains general requirements and regulations for general parking provisions applicable to all districts, schedule of parking requirements and off-street loading requirements. This Article discusses general standards for landscape materials and ground cover, screening requirements, parking lot landscaping, interior parking lot landscaping, and suggested native plant species. This Article also includes regulated lighting, lighting plan requirement, and stormwater management and procedures.

Article 10. Planned Unit Development
This Article contains the regulations, specifications, procedures, and other matters regarding the Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning district.

Article 11. Administration & Enforcement
This Article discusses and regulates many matters regarding the general administration and enforcement of the new Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map, as well as the penalties for violations. The topics covered by this Article include, but are not limited to, the zoning administrator, zoning permits, performance guarantees, zoning amendments, public hearings, performance guarantees, application fees and escrow accounts, proof of ownership, public hearing notice requirements, enforcement, and applications.

Article 12. Zoning Board of Appeals
This Article authorizes and regulates the Zoning Board of Appeals, including its creation, meetings, types of appeals, jurisdiction, application procedures, decisions, variances, effects of approval, and appeals of the decisions of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Article 13. Separability, Repealer, Savings and Effective Date
If any piece of this Ordinance is adjudged by any court of competence jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgement shall not affect the remainder of the Ordinance, but confined to the piece that directly involves the controversy in which the said judgment shall be rendered. The former Zoning Ordinance, and all amendments thereto, are herby repealed. The repealed shall not release any penalty or liability and treated as remaining in force. This Ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days following the date of its enactment.

A full copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map can be reviewed, inspected, or purchased at the Niles City Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, 7:30AM to 5:30PM and Friday 7:30AM to 11:30PM. or viewed via the City of Niles website at www.nilesmi.org. The City of Niles will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services at the hearing, such as signers for the hearing impaired, upon seven (7) days' prior notice to the City of Niles by writing or calling the following: Ann Young, Community Development Director, 333 North Second Street, Niles, MI 49120; Telephone (269) 683-4700 ext. 3020. This notice is disseminated and posted pursuant to the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, PA110 of 2006, as amended.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ann Young
Community Development Director City of Niles

Niles Daily Star:
May 10, 2025
HEARING 05.28.25

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO and JUDGE
2024-0436-DE-R
HON BRIAN S. BERGER

Court address 811 Port Street FLOOR 4 St. Joseph, MI 49085
Court telephone no. 269-983-7111

Estate of CHARLES ALLEN CLIFTON, Deceased
Date of birth: May 27, 1953

TO ALL CREDITORS:**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charles Allen Clifton, died October 25, 2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Temera Perry, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street Floor 4 St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
May 10, 2025

Temera Perry
2316 Ainsley Drive
Flower Mound, TX 75027
214-500-8345

James J. Mollison, P17884, 4 South Lincoln Avenue, Niles, MI 49120, 269-684-7600

Niles Daily Star: May 10, 2025
EST/CLIFTON, C.

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO.
2025-0174-DE-J
AND HON. PAUL S. JANCHA

Court address 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085
Court telephone 269-983-7111

Estate of Alice M. Pratt, deceased
Date of birth: 3/24/1938
TO ALL CREDITORS:**
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Alice M. Pratt, died November 16, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michael Pratt Sr., personal representative(s), or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

04/30/2025

Michael Pratt Sr.
2006 Ontario Rd. Lot 151
Niles, MI 49120 269-479-5801

John R. Colip P25250
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100 Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

Niles Daily Star:
May 10, 2025
EST/PRATT, A.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

RE: THE BEVERLY ANN HOLT (NOW IRREVOCABLE) TRUST DATED JANUARY 31, 1996

SURVIVING SETTLOR:
ANN M. FORSGREN
DATE OF DEATH: MARCH 30, 2025
...DATE OF BIRTH: FEBRUARY 29, 1936
EIN# 33-7035787

SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE:
ANN M. FORSGREN

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The Settlor of the above trust, BEVERLY ANN HOLT, died March 30, 2025; she resided at 511 Gettysburg Drive, Niles MI 49120, in the City of Niles, Berrien County, Michigan. Creditors of BEVERLY ANN HOLT, Deceased and the above trust are notified that all claims against BEVERLY ANN HOLT, individually and the above trust will be forever barred unless presented to Ann M. Forsgren, Successor Trustee of the Trust, or to Attorney James J. Mollison, whose respective addresses are listed below, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. No probate estate is necessary.
Date: May 10, 2025

Ann M. Forsgren, Successor Trustee
511 Gettysburg Drive
Niles, MI 49120
269-683-5692

James J. Mollison [P17884]
Attorney for Trustee
4 South Lincoln Avenue
Niles, MI 49120
269-684-7600
C 269-930-4170

Niles Daily Star: May 10, 2025
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2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports." Go to: https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.HughesNet.com for details.
- HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC, an EchoStar Company.

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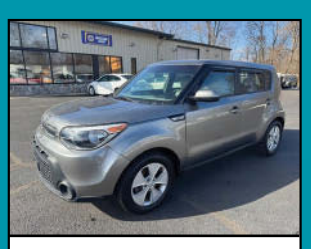

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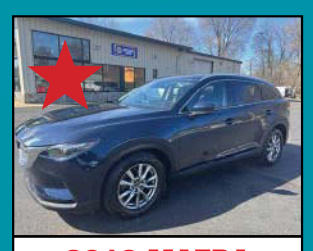

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